









## CANTON.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

CANTON, 11th December, 1891.  
There is very little going on here at present. Business is all round in the reverse of flourishing, and New Year prospects are anything but bright. The only noteworthy event that has happened here lately was the bazaar held last night at the Masonic Hall under the auspices of the Wesleyan Mission, and even that would not have been in any way remarkable but for a row that took place between the Masonic fraternity and Miss Johnston, a missionary lady from Hongkong. It appears that some time ago Miss Johnston wrote a letter that was considered offensive to the Rev. J. B. Orr, who is a member of the Craft, and in consequence was prohibited from ever again having the privilege of using the Masonic Hall for her bazaars. To get round this prohibition in the case of last night's bazaar, an arrangement was made with another lady to take charge of and sell Miss Johnston's things; but the Masons, on discovering this, had the whole of the Hongkong lady's exhibits turned out of the hall. Mrs. Glover came to the rescue and had an exhibition and sale of Miss Johnston's articles in her own house; so the people on Shamen were treated to two opposition bazaars. A storm in a teacup all this foolish squabbling, but it is far too common with our missionary friends and hardly redounds to their credit.

Building proceeds but slowly on the French concession, but it is said that renewed activity in this direction will be displayed early next year. Mr. Marty has just commenced the servants' quarters for the residence he intends building, and other lot-holders are said to have lately been arranging preliminaries to utilize their purchases. There is still a great lack of comfortable houses accommodation on Shamen, and I am sure that inexpensively built five or six-roomed residences would return good interest on their cost, as rents are still exorbitantly high. There has been some talk of a Fine Brigade ball at the Shamen Hotel about Christmas time, but I have not heard whether arrangements have yet been completed.

The weather continues all that could be desired.

## LATE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, November 12th.  
The Emperor Francis Joseph, addressing the Austro-Hungarian delegations, said that despite the peaceful assurances of all the Powers, the dangers besetting Europe were not removed, nor had the general armaments stopped.

Russia has fortified her Chinese and Persian frontiers.

There are 50,000,000 lbs. of grain in the Caucasus, which it is impossible to transport to the famine districts, owing to the frozen state of the rivers.

Mr. W. L. Jackson, after being returned unopposed, the new Irish Secretary, in a speech at Leeds, announced his intention of introducing a Free Education Bill for Ireland next session.

The National Sporting Club of London has offered a purse of £2,000 to induce Peter Jackson and Paddy Slavin to fight to a finish.

The Corporation of Glasgow have purchased a new wharf.

The ship *Ben Venue* was being towed down the Channel, when the hawser broke, and the vessel drifted ashore at Dover. The Sandgate life-boat made repeated fruitless endeavours to succour those on board. Many attempts were made to throw a life-line, with the rocket apparatus and with field guns, but all attempts failed. The Sandgate boat finally rescued the remaining survivors. The captain and four of the crew were drowned, and the rest were rescued by a rope round their waists.

The general cargo of the *Ben Venue* was valued at £60,000, and the vessel at £20,000. Both were insured.

Many wrecks and losses of life are reported at all the Channel ports, and also in Scotland and along the East Coast. There have been many minor casualties inland.

The Porte is pleased at Lord Salisbury's reference to Egypt.

The P. & O. Co's steamer *Maritima* has arrived in London. Nearly all on board suffered from influenza. At one ninety-two were prostrated together. There were no deaths. It is thought the epidemic was contracted in Melbourne.

Marshall Fonseca has seized the reins of power in Brazil because the Congress resisted him in his attempts to largely extend paper money.

The garrison of Rio de Janeiro numbering 4,000 men, have risen against Fonseca, and a conflict is feared between the ships and the garrison.

The Rio Grande members of Congress are seeking an asylum with the legion at Rio de Janeiro.

A new herring bank, one hundred miles long, has been discovered on the west coast of Newfoundland.

The shares in the Bank of Spain have fallen heavily. The Bank is parleying with the Rothschild's for assistance, but negotiations are still hanging fire.

It is reported that the Parnell-Wood probate suit has ended in a compromise.

A conspiracy against the King of Greece has been discovered. M. Trioupiotis is implicated in the conspiracy.

Lord Salisbury's speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet has greatly excited the French colony in Cairo. The Paris Press continues furious over it.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire declares that Lord Salisbury is right to let the English troops remain in Egypt until they have completed their mission.

Extremely rich reefs have been discovered at Fort Victoria, in Mischianland.

Lord Brassey is to preside at a banquet to be given to Sir George Grey, the Agent-General for Victoria. Lord Knutsford will attend the banquet.

The police entered a great Anarchist meeting at Chicago, and insisted on the American flag being placed above it a red flag. This caused a wild commotion, but on the police showing their revolvers, the meeting was suspended.

The Chilian Cabinet has resigned, owing to a breach of compact between the Liberals and the Tory ministers.

MADRAS, November 21st.  
The steamer *Waverly*, of the Asiatic Line, which arrived at Madras this morning from Calcutta, while sailing round in harbour mapped a cable and grounded alongside the groyne; a hawser was then attached from the stranded steamer to the steamer *Purva*, which tried to drag her into deep water, but without avail. The *Waverly's* cargo will, probably, have to be discharged before she can get off.

The reception of the Viceroy at Bhopal was on a scale of unprecedented magnificence, being the first occasion of a Viceroy's visit to that State.

The B. & M. himself, dressed in a *harka*, received Lord Lansdowne at the railway station. A line of patrician elephants' drew up along the whole route to Lal Kooter, lined also by Bhopal troops of all arms, including detachments of Camel Sowars. At the state banquet, the Begum sat beside the Viceroy and herself proposed the health of the Queen and the Viceroy in a feeling, well-delivered speech in Hindustani, which was afterwards translated into English by Colonel Robertson. After the banquet the Viceroy giving the Begum his arm, conducted her to the residence to witness a brilliant display of fireworks and gorgeous illuminations of the City, the

Palace, the Fort, the Lake and the hills beyond.

November 23rd.  
The steamer *Waverly* is moving near to the harbour groyne and has parted her cables used to keep her off. A tug from Calcutta is anxiously awaited.

RIO DE JANEIRO, November 22nd.  
President Fonseca has issued a proclamation, in which he states that he will defer summoning Congress to meet until May next. He demands an increase of powers of the Executive.

PARIS, November 22nd.  
M. de Giers left here to-day for Berlin, where he will meet the German Chancellor.

LONDON, November 23rd.  
A judgment has been given by the Privy Council, affirming the decision of the High Court of Madras in the case of the Secretary of State for India versus Nallakuthi Jeyaraj.

A number of schools in France and Germany have been closed owing to a widespread and virulent outbreak of influenza.

Ex-Emperor Eugénie proceeds to Egypt in December, where she will spend the winter.

CALCUTTA, November 24th.  
The British India steamer *Lanada* is ashore at Puri. The weather there is very bad; some anxiety is felt for her safety; two tugs have been sent from Calcutta to her assistance.

The Viceroy, who is now at Indore, met with another splendid reception similar in character to that accorded at Bhopal and Gwalior.

## THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN SZECHUAN.

A correspondent writes to our Shanghai morning contemporary as follows:—

Your Chungking correspondent states in his letter of October 28th, that the local authorities had just sent soldiers to Tatsien to arrest the murderers of the Christians who were killed in the persecutions last year; but that, fearing a revolt, the troops had not ventured to arrest any one. In this connection the following information as to what has been done to obtain justice may be of interest. A man named Chang Sun-siao, whose brother had been killed, and a woman who had lost her husband, only son, and brother-in-law (their bodies were burnt when the church was set on fire) had appealed to all the tribunals of the province to obtain justice against the murderers. Having not even secured the arrest of the incriminated persons, the poor people travelled all the way to Peking, where they laid the case before the Board of Censors. That body sent them back to their own province, and instructed the Viceroy to arrest the accused at Tatsien and have them sent to Chentu, the provincial capital, for trial. The Viceroy accordingly sent a deputy, who had already arrested two of the accused when the Taoist of Chungking ordered him to release them, under the pretext that if they were kept in custody there would be danger of trouble in the district. The Taoist also memorialised the Viceroy to prohibit the taking of the accused to the provincial capital, and to consider the murders as part of the whole question of the riot. The Viceroy, who is a relation of the Taoist, acceded to the request, and sent the complainants to the Taoist, who has just given the unjust and illegal decision mentioned above. The Taoist says there are no corpses in proof of murders having been committed, and that the charges have been brought with a view to injuring innocent people. But why do not the officials arrest and try the accused? And if the charges are found to be false, the accused can be punished according to law. It is absurd to say that a corpse must be produced to substantiate a charge of murder, for in that case all a murderer needs to do to escape punishment is to make away with the body of his victim. As a matter of fact it is laid down by law that the disappearance of the body only adds to the guilt of the assassin. With regard to the only corpse, that of a man named Chang Wen, which was not burnt at Napo Chang, the Taoist says that in the second moon of the present year the soldiers captured and executed two brigands who were recognised as having killed Chang. This is a mere invention of the Taoist. There have been no soldiers at Langchang-chen this year. The two brigands are imaginary persons of whom the complainants know nothing.

Such is the unjust treatment of Christians by the mandarins. These illegalities are perfectly well known to the higher authorities in Peking, but they are accounted for with the same parrot cry—the fear of a rising of the people. Three months ago there was a revolt against the authorities at Wan Hsien, near Chungking. The sub-Prefect did not hesitate to cut off eight heads. And in the reported terrible province of Hunan, the sub-Prefect beheaded eleven incendiaries who had tried to set fire to his official residence. Let us hope that some day the cup will overflow and that China will have to answer for the many crimes and injustices she has committed against Europe.

## THE REBELLION IN NORTH CHINA.

The following Imperial decree was issued on the 6th instant. "The Board of Civil Office, under instruction to award punishment to certain officials, reports as follows:—The Tartar Lieutenant-General of Jehol, Fuhai, is to lose one degree of rank, and to retain his post; but as he has since vacated it, this sentence is to be recorded against him. Two degrees are to be taken from the rank of the Jehol Taoist, Sing Yung, who will remain in his place. Chih-shao, Prefect of the Chenteh Fu prefecture, loses two degrees and is to be transferred to another post. The degrees lost by these officials cannot be recovered by purchase. Respect this!"

Another decree appeared on the same day, as follows:—"Chen Fuhai (the Jehol Lieutenant-General) memorialised us in regard to the bandit creating disturbances in Jehol and Chaoyang. We instructed Li Hung-chang, Ting On and Yu Lu to send soldiers from different directions and quell the insurrection. Not long after, a report was presented to us by the Generalissimo of Chihli, Yeh Chih-chai, stating that a victory had been gained over the insurgents at Sanashia and other places in the district of Kienchong. Li Hung-chang, Yu Lu and Ting On memorialised us on the same day, that in several engagements the rebels were utterly defeated; and we perused and noted these statements. From the 20th to the 25th of the 10th moon, Generals Nich, Kwei Ling, and Kun Feng-ming, of the Fungien province, fought repeated victorious battles in the Chaoyang district, captured leaders of the bandit (Ko Wen-chong and Yang Ming), put to death the head priest Tu Fa-ai, slaughtered over 1,000 rebels, and scattered the remainder. General Chang Yung-ching has also been despatched to Changmaitum to render further necessary assistance. A pitched battle was fought near Wakanyin, Kien-chong, between rebels, priests and the soldiers under General Yeh Chih-chai. The rebel leaders, Fu Lien-sin and Feng Ta-hi, were killed; together with several priests in attendance, who were murdering innocents. The dead bodies of the enemy lay heaped one on the other, while large numbers of horses, cattle, sheep, munition and implements of war were taken. Round about Pienchong and Kien-chong districts, no more insurgents are to be found. From Kienchong to Chaoyang every road is being besieged and blocked.

Cavalry are making a flank movement by the route north-west of Khasinwongki and are successful in their attack. The Chihli and Fungien soldiers engaged in the expedition showed great daring and invariably charged headlong against the enemy, victory, in every instance, attending their arms. They are, indeed, worthy of commendation. Let Li Hung-chang, Ting On and Yu Lu order their generals and captains to follow up these victories, to march against the foe with rapidity, to dislodge the rebels holding Chaoyang, and to exterminate them, leaving no further danger to the future, so that the country may enjoy peace. Respect this!"

## WESTERN SHANTUNG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

November 21st, 1891.  
The present season seems to have been peculiar in several respects. Several heavy rains fell during the ninth month; some of them accompanied with loud and continuous thunder, a most unusual circumstance. In this particular district about a month ago, there was a sudden and violent rainfall which lasted for about two hours, filling up all the gaps in the loamy soil, and making the roads almost impassable. Yet this downpour was but the thin edge of a knife, and half a mile distant north and south, there was practically no rain at all. No wonder the natives said that the sixth moon had broken over into the ninth. The effect of so much irrigation is to advance the prospects of the wheat, and to make the sifting out of pea-nuts much more difficult than common, being always a task that only people of a patience practically infinite would think of undertaking. A destructive hail-storm, toward the end of the fifth moon, ruined vast areas of cotton lands, which had to be replanted. The result was to make the cotton crop much later than usual, so that even in the last third of November there are persons to be seen in some of the neighbouring counties still gathering cotton pods, or cutting up the stalks.

Another idiosyncrasy of this year of Grace, is the absence of any 'first-fall' an event which the almanacs set for the 24th of October. But so far as we have been able either to see or to hear, for a great distance hereabouts, there was no such thing as a frost at all, but on the night of Nov. 15th a cold wind lowered the temperature, so that water froze, and the patient leaves, tired of waiting for the over-due congelation of dew, quietly curled up and died as well as they could without it.

The proclamations in regard to the arrest of Koloa Hui men, are said in some places to have put a stop to the performances of the Tsai Li, or Temperance Society, to which frequent allusion has been heretofore made. While the good nature of some magistrates is excessive, there are others who cannot be made to dissociate temperance from rebellion, and in times when special attention is attracted to any particular sect, it is the policy of all the others to follow the example of 'Brier Rabbit' and 'the Lion.' The proclamations regarding the troubles at the South, ordering protection for chapels, &c., have, as already mentioned, been posted widely, probably universally. But all efforts to get the special sheets promised by Li Hung-chang for each separate 'chapel,' have altogether failed in this part of the province, but not so in Chihli. Repeated applications to the consulates invariably end in some feeble nullo from a Taoist, and the matter is dropped.

Although the crops as a whole cannot be said to be bad, the bands of robbers which roam over the country appear to be quite numerous, as in any past years, and the local militia is kept busy in swift raids for captures. A seizure of a dozen or so recently took place in the Pien-yung district, but half as many more escaped. A large pawn-shop within two miles of this spot was looted at night not long since, and several hundred taels of silver seized, with the usual impunity from attack by the neighbours, who care nothing when a rich and odious corporation takes its turn in 'eating bitterness.' The local official made his polite call to see the place, where the mischief was accomplished, and perhaps that will be the end of it.

The new Governor of the province seems to be taking hold of some of his duties with vigour. It is said by persons in the *yamen* of the magistrate who captured the school-boys on the way to Peking last September, that when that official went to Chihai Fu, he was soundly rebuked by the Governor for meddling with what did not concern him.

Mention was made a few weeks ago of an effort on the part of a party of Canadian missionaries, to occupy a place called Hsienchen, a market town in the prefecture of Weichai, Honan. Owing to the unsettled political condition of affairs, it was not thought best that ladies should go for the present, but several gentlemen entered into possession of their leased property, and began to make suitable repairs. Warned, perhaps, by the abortive attempt at expulsion by robbery, which took place at Chihwang, another market-town similarly occupied, the opponents of the foreign barbarian resorted to a more crafty method. They employed a large band of professional beggars and mendicants, belonging to a fraternity known as the 'house-cutter' because, if their demands are not granted, they at once proceed to cut open their own heads with knives, thrusting themselves into prominent positions which they refuse to abandon until all the managers have come to terms with the leaders of the head-cutters, else all business will be stopped. A party of these persons made their appearance before the foreigners' premises, brandishing knives, and demanding a large sum of money. They rushed into the courts, threatened to assault the foreigners, wounded themselves, and made-believe that one of their number had been wounded by the foreigners in the fray, only to claim, on later, that this poor injured mortal was dead, and reparation must be made!

The suddenness of the attack, and the helplessness of the foreigners, made a compromise seem necessary for the time, but the band returned at intervals renewing their demands. 'Peace-talkers' from the town volunteered (for the consideration of 400 strings of cash) to guarantee that the party should not come again! Upon appeal to the local official, it was discovered that he was securely sealed up in an examination, real or imaginary, for a period of ten days or so, and could give no other help than issuing (after waiting ten days) a warrant to two *yamen* runners to drive away the gang. This warrant was used as a basis for a demand for more money, and for a long time the foreigners lived behind barred gates, like prisoners in a jail.

One gentleman has gone to Tientsin to lay the case before the British Consul, with whose knowledge and approbation the attempt to continue the occupation of this town had been made.

Cases of this sort show how easy it is for the Chinese to find ways in which to get a thing done indirectly, which it is inconvenient to do openly. Still, ingenious as the Chinese are, there is a great variety of ways, which would tend to render foreign existence almost or quite intolerable, which do not appear to have been thus adopted. Let any Chinese black-leg should read English, and take in the *Daily News*, we shall refrain from suggesting any of these methods, merely hinting that they have all been tried in Utah by the 'salts.' In their effort to drive out obnoxious 'gentiles,' for long periods of years, though at present, we believe, they are

obsolete. In the end they always failed, just as such means will in China, but it will be long time before they will cease to be tried—perhaps even longer than the period which is to elapse ere there shall be 'a foreign adviser' in every provincial capital, reforming all Chinese abuses by his pungent influence, and radically altering the nature of all officials within the range of his vision, merely by the powerful solvent of good advice!—N. C. Daily News.

## JUSTICE AND CLOTHES.

A few days ago, says the *Sydney Bulletin*, Peter Howe, M.P., and James Miller, both of the lately gone bung Australian Mercantile Loan and Guarantee Company, were duly sentenced by Judge Innes to seven years' gaol for undue dealing with the assets of that lost corporation. In the light of the evidence the sentence seems to meet the case admirably; and if sundry other directors, representing various companies that are already burst, and various others that ought to be burst, should presently go the same road, the results will probably prove beneficial to the public at large. The average director doesn't get into gaol often enough. In a large number of cases he is an individual with no qualification; he begins by holding the smallest number of shares which will qualify him for a seat on the Board, and when he gets his seat, he sells, but does transfer them, and thereafter he draws his fees under false pretences, and plays with other people's money jocosely, having none of his own at stake. No director that we ever heard of has got into gaol for this, though several hundred must assuredly ought to get there. Then he votes himself handsome overdrafts and loans on no visible security, and this is as strictly wholesale, stealing as if he took his overdraft out of the 'bank' by means of a crowbar and a jemmy. Very few directors get into gaol for this either—in fact, at the present moment we can't recall one. Also, he votes for the purchase of his own land by the company, and values the land himself, whereby it occasionally happens that a bunk of rock in the back-blocks, worth something like £100 on a liberal estimate, is passed off on the shareholders for £500 or £1,000. It is very seldom indeed that a director gets locked up for this either, but Messrs. Howe and Miller did the business with such phenomenal clumsiness that they just managed to crowd themselves safely into quod. In a general way a fraudulent director has almost to burst his way into a gaol if he wants to get there, and the success of Peter Howe and his mate in getting themselves put away is a surprising circumstance. The evidence against them was absolutely conclusive, but 'it took' the most vigorous and vociferous efforts on the part of Judge Innes to secure a conviction, and it was only by dint of almost unjustifiable pressure that the verdict of 'guilty' was extracted. It would have been a lasting disgrace had the verdict not been obtained, but yet it would really appear that if the Judge had been even a shade less urgent, the result would have been a failure. The average jurymen, after all, has a superstitious reverence for the prisoner in the shiny black coat. He returns his verdict cheerfully, and on the most insufficient evidence, to hang or imprison the individual in a 'tattered suit, but in nine cases out of ten he will acquit the fat, well-dressed swindler without the slightest hesitation. The only swindler who doesn't get a show under present conditions, is the one who hasn't stolen enough to enable him to buy good clothes with the proceeds. Therefore, if justice is to be a square and honest thing, and all men are to have the same chance, every prisoner who is tied on a serious charge should be supplied with a decent suit, so that he may only be hanged for his crime instead of being hanged for the years in his coat. The clothes ought to be reasonably up to date and suitable to his complexion, and he should be allowed to carry a shiny bell-topper in his hand. The disreputable bell-topper of Mr. Howe, duly ironed up for the occasion by the Government laundryman, might, for instance, serve a long line of prisoners, and save many of them from receiving unjust sentences, and as the accused would simply carry it in his hand the question of it is a matter of no importance. Also, each prisoner ought to be shaved and have his hair nicely done in a George-street manner—and even then the results would probably be unsatisfactory. For when two men came up for trial in two equally elegant black coats the jury would convict the man who wore the Government garment, and would promptly acquit the fellow who had paid for his own suit out of his plunder.

## Today's Advertisements.

## PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction,

TO-MORROW,

the 15th December, 1891, at 3.30 p.m., at his Sales Room, Queen's Road,

SUNDRY HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

SILVER WARE, PLATED GLASS

WARE, CURTAINS, PIANO, &c.,

late belonging to Mr. E. L. WOODIN,

Comprising—

TAPESTRY with PLUSH COVERED

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Canton-made BLACKWOOD GLASS CABINET.

CURIO STANDS, TABLES, TEA-POYS and STOOLS.

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DOUBLE IRON BEDSTEAD, BRASS

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Marble-top BUREAU with Glass, and Marble-top WASHSTAND.

One COTTAGE PIANO, by Brinsmead and Sons.

One LARGE TELESCOPE with Tripod

Stand.

One JINRIKSHA.

And, &c., &c.

Catalogues will be issued.

TERMS OF SALE.—As customary.

J. M. ARMSTRONG,

Auctioneer,

Hongkong, 14th December, 1891. [1515]

## NOTICE.

M. Y. Son HENRY HUMPHREYS was admitted into Partnership with me on the 1st day of July last.

JNO. D. HUMPHREYS

Hongkong, 12th December, 1891.

THE Business heretofore carried on under the name of JNO. D. HUMPHREYS will henceforth be conducted under the name of John D. Humphreys & Son.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1891. [1516]

## Intimations.



1891 CHRISTMAS 1891  
PRESENTS FOR ALL  
AT EXTREMELY MODERATE PRICES.

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FOR  
CHILDREN.

FRENCH, GERMAN and ENGLISH TOYS. TOOLS for BOYS.  
DRESSED and UNRESSED DOLLS. SWINGS for GIRLS.  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. GAMES for ALL.  
MAGIC LANTERNS. BONBONS and CRACKERS.  
RUBBER BALLOONS. CHOCOLATES and PUREST CONFECTIONERY.  
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Fancy Ornaments and Candles for Christmas  
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LADIES.

WORK CASES and COMPANIONS; Fitted. FAIRY LAMPS.  
GLOVE and HANDKERCHIEF CASES. IVORY TABLETS.  
BREAKFAST, TEA and DINNER SETS. PLACQUES.  
TABLE ORNAMENTS. ELECTRO PLATED and SILVER WARE.  
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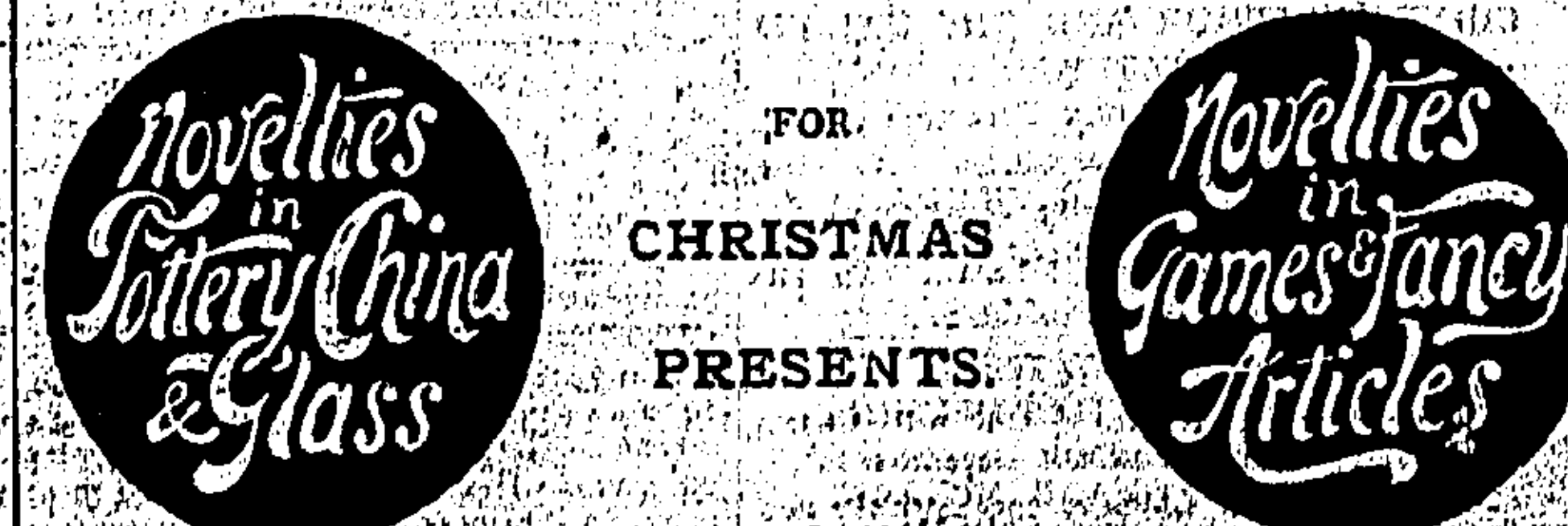
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